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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Training

2. Before qualifying as a doctor, a medical student must spend six years in the medical faculty of a university. During this time, he must study at least one foreign language. On leaving the university, he goes on a compulsory post-graduate course of five years' duration. Medical training appeared to be adequate and efficient and one outstanding feature was the emphasis on visual training.
3. Although the teaching of medical theories accepted by the Party enters into the training program, these theories are not always accepted out-of-hand by the medical profession. For instance, Academician Lepeshinskaya's theory that cells can evolve from dead matter is not accepted by the greater part of the medical profession. The attitude of those who do not accept it is that it is a good theory but that it must be proved before it can be accepted.
4. The medical faculty in a Soviet university functions separately from the rest of the university and is divided into three parts, called institutes. They are:
 - a. The Hygiene Institute. Its chief efforts are directed against malaria, typhus, and cholera. It also focuses its attention on the hygiene of food, and hygiene in schools and industry.
 - b. The Pediatric Institute.
 - c. The Therapeutic Institute.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Research

5. Research is greatly encouraged, usually by an immediate and generous reward in cash for every achievement of significance. On the other hand, doctors are not encouraged to work too hard. A six-hour day is considered adequate for a professor, who can live well (by Soviet standards) on his salary. A Soviet doctor has, therefore, more time for research work than his Western colleague.

Planning in the Medical Profession

6. The Soviet medical profession is planned in great detail. One of the most striking features is that at no level is it subjected to laymen. Even the Minister of Health is a doctor. Another noticeable feature is that only the medical subjects which are considered to be "socially useful" are studied. For instance, the Soviet medical profession disregards the following branches of medical research:
 - a. Hormones - they are not considered to have any effect on the life of the nation.
 - b. Obesity - not considered at all.
 - c. Psychological tests or aptitude tests based on psychology do not exist. In deciding the fitness of a man for a job, reliance is placed on his teacher's opinion and on his physical examination.

Doctors' Salary

7. Soviet doctors, particularly in the higher grades, are very well paid. A rural medical officer makes between 8,500 and 9,500 rubles per year. A medical docent receives 48,000 rubles a year, while the professor in charge of an institute earns between 70,000 and 80,000 rubles a year. A man at the top of his profession receives about 240,000 rubles a year. In addition, doctors receive financial rewards for any good textbooks they write. Salaries are based on a six-hour working day. A doctor may retire at the age of 55 with a pension worth 40% of his salary. He may continue to work after retirement age, in which case he receives his full salary plus pension.

Childbirth and Pediatrics

8. A new method of analgetic confinement is now favored in the Soviet Union. It is called psychoprophylactic. The expectant mother is given instruction on the physiology of confinement. In this way, through knowledge and suggestion, it is possible to dispense with anaesthetics in childbirth.
9. Like all the hospitals visited, the maternity hospital tended to be overcrowded. Hospitals were kept very clean and, in particular, the visitors were struck by the excellent sterilization of the operating theaters.

Tuberculosis

10. A visit was paid to the Moscow Tuberculosis Institute. The institute has about 500 beds and it controls about 700 X-ray centers throughout the country. This institute directs the whole anti-tuberculosis therapy of the USSR.
11. In the treatment of tuberculosis the Soviets make great use of the miniature X-ray. They have their own theory about primary tuberculosis infection, which they consider to be universal and not confined to the lung or any other particular spot. It is the secondary infection that shows up in a particular place.

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12. Every kind of tuberculosis patient is lodged in this institute; those suffering from lung, bone, and kidney tuberculosis and meningitis, etc. If the institute research department finds a cure worth trying, the system can be put into operation almost at once in tuberculosis hospitals throughout the country.

Night Sanatoriums; Industrial Medicine

13. [redacted] night sanatoriums [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] appear to be a good solution to one facet of the serious Soviet housing problem. The function of a night sanatorium is to treat workers who suffer from diseases such as hypertension, ventricular ulcers, and those who are tired and in danger of having a nervous breakdown. Such workers get especially good food, all the medical care they need, and sleep there, but go to work in the normal way. The worker may stay there for a period varying from three weeks to two months. The case reports studied gave the impression that this was a good system of keeping the worker at work who is not ill enough to be put into the hospital.

14. Scientific research has reached a surprisingly high level. It began about thirty years ago and the Medical Academy has now founded nine research institutes for industrial health. The Moscow Institute of Industrial Health has a staff of fifty doctors and two hundred and fifty others, such as chemists and engineers.
15. There are another six research institutes which are run by the Trade Union Federation, which do research into accident prevention. One of these is the Leningrad Industrial Safety Institute, which has a staff of about one hundred and sixty.

16. [redacted] there was a medical officer on the premises. Every factory employing three thousand workers or more must have its own hospital, clinic, and day nursery. In such factories there is usually about one doctor to every thousand workers. 25X1

Equipment

17. Equipment was found to be adequate but not always of the latest design.
18. Three electron microscopes were seen. One was of Soviet manufacture which was very efficient, another was a true copy of a German Siemens made in the USSR, and the third was a postwar model of RCA. The last-named was an EMU type which was seen in the Leningrad Virus Institute.

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19. In the industrial hygiene branch there was a noticeable tendency towards simplification of apparatus. The idea is that an ordinary engineer or worker should be able to use it. Two examples of these simplified pieces of apparatus are as follows:

- a. Gas analyzer: Air is passed through a simple tube and nitrogen oxide, CO₂, carbon sulphide, and some twenty other gases are read off on a scale.
- b. Noisemeter: Very small and light, 1 to 2 kilos.

Drugs

20. There is a plentiful supply of antibiotics and every kind of drug. The only exception is aureomycin. There does not seem to be any of this drug in the USSR. All the drugs are of Soviet manufacture.

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Strength of Medical Profession

22. There are some 300,000 doctors in the USSR today. In addition there are about 900,000 public health nurses or feldshers. About 70% of the doctors are female.

 Comment:  the institutions  are probably not representative of medical conditions throughout the USSR.

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